

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,762 to Clark et al. ("*Clark*"), and/or by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,995 to Richter ("*Richter*"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently amended claims are distinguished from *Clark* and from *Richter*.

As amended herein, claim 1 now recites that a support plate of the adapter has a latch provided from its top surface. The latch is operable to *engage a cooperating opening in a computing device* to secure a computing device to the top surface of said support plate. In addition, a connector is provided from the bottom surface of the support plate, the connector being adapted to removably mount the support plate to a support stand.

Neither *Clark* nor *Richter* teach or suggest such structure. *Clark* neither teaches nor suggests a support plate having a latch operable to engage *a cooperating opening in a computing device*. *Clark* merely teaches "clip elements 38" (col. 3, lns. 13-16) which are shown in FIG. 1 to secure the top exterior surface of the computer's keyboard. *Clark* neither teaches nor suggests that the clip elements 38 are capable of engaging a cooperating opening in a computing device.

Richter also fails to teach or suggest the adapter as presently recited in claim 1. While *Richter* includes a screw 39, the screw is provided at a top, upwardly facing surface of a carrier plate 30. *Richter* teaches that the screw is "threadedly engageable with a tripod socket such as commonly used on cameras and camcorders"

(col. 3, Ins. 42-45). This structure described in *Richter* falls short of the structure recited in claim 1 in two ways: it is not provided from the bottom surface, and it is not adapted to removably mount the support plate to a support stand. Rather, *Richter* merely shows and describes a screw *extending from the top surface* as being engageable to a socket of the *device to be supported* over the carrier plate.

Richter also fails to teach or suggest a latch provided from a top surface of a operable to *engage a cooperating opening in* a computing device. The carrier plate 30 has no such latch. Rather, *Richter* merely describes the carrier plate as having "apertures" 32 with lugs disposed therein, the apertures being engageable by interlocking elements 18 of the base/tilt section of a stand (col. 3, In. 60 through col. 3, In. 12). The apertures 32 of the carrier plate are not operable to engage an opening. Instead, the apertures are the openings that require engagement from something protruding into the apertures. Clearly, the interlocking elements 18 of the base/tilt section do not meet this recitation because they do not project from the same support plate on which the connector is also provided. Thus, there is no structure described in *Richter* which corresponds to the adapter recited in claim 1 which includes a support plate having top and bottom surfaces, a connector provided from the bottom surface adapted to removably mount the support plate to a support stand, and a latch provided from the top surface operable to engage a cooperating opening in a computing device.

Claims 14 and 20 contain similar recitations and for that reason are distinguished over *Clark* and *Richter*. Claims 5-6 and 18 further recite assemblies which positively recite the adapter mounted to the support stand in a way that is clearly neither taught nor suggested by *Clark* and *Richter*. In addition, while claims 3 and 16 recite

adapters which have threaded studs, the adapters recited in claims 4 and 17 have threaded openings. As described in paragraph [0023] with reference to FIG. 3A of applicants' specification, the threaded opening has a concave design extending into the bottom surface of the support plate, for engagement by a cooperatively threaded stud of a tripod. Clearly, *Richter* neither teaches nor suggests a connector having such threaded opening, i.e., one capable of engaging a threaded stud of a tripod, rather than a tripod socket.

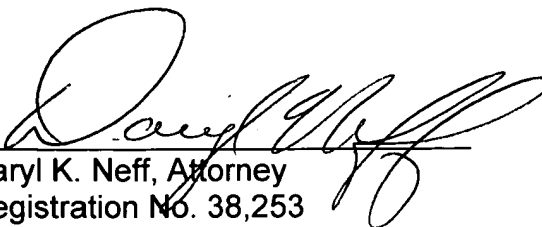
Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0015], [0018] through [0024] and [0026] through [0029] of the Specification.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance. If for any reason the Examiner has any question regarding the content of this amendment or the allowability of the presently pending claims, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

It is believed that no fee is required upon filing this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, authorization is given to debit the Deposit Account No. 09-0463 of the Assignee for the amount due, and to credit any overpayment to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard C. Ferri et al.

By:


Daryl K. Neff, Attorney
Registration No. 38,253
Telephone: (973) 316-2612